



California Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWS FOR VETERANS

Contact: Robert Glazier
Jerry Jones
Jaime Arteaga
Legislation and Public Affairs
916-653-2192
Fax 916-653-2611
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COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION PROGRAM

Until recently, military retirees with disabilities waived their regular retired pay to receive Veterans Administration (VA) disability compensation. This system has been unique to military retirement, since all other Federal service retirees are entitled to receive their full regular retirement compensation and disability compensation. In an effort to restore military retirement compensation that is on par with Federal service benefits, Congress enacted the Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) program in December 2002. This tax-free benefit is available for retirees of the United States Armed Forces with military or United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) rated disabilities resulting directly from combat: armed conflict, specially hazardous military duty, training exercises that simulate war, or an instrumentality of war.

As a result of this legislation, Congress authorized two programs for disabled military retirees: **Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) Program**, and **Concurrent Retirement and Disability Program (CRDP)**.

Veterans who feel they fit the profile for eligibility should contact the Combat-Related Special Compensation program to request and submit an application for this benefit. The application is available on the CRSC's website at www.crsc.army.mil/index.htm or by calling the CRSC Service Center at 866-281-3254, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE MILITARY MUSEUM

NEW EXHIBIT HONORS JEWISH MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

This past Monday, February 7th, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tom Johnson co-hosted the unveiling of an exhibit which traces the military contributions of Jewish Americans from the Civil War to Vietnam and is dedicated to the 17 Jewish American recipients of our nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor. The California State Military Museum and Resource Center created this new exhibit as part of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the Nazi's notorious World War II death camp in Poland where an estimated 1.5 million people perished.

"I was honored to meet Col. Jack Jacobs, [*U.S. Army (retired)*] who is the only living Jewish Medal of Honor recipient," said Johnson. "The heroism this man demonstrated is both humbling and inspiring for

he has demonstrated what Americans are capable of doing when called upon to defend our country."

The Congressional Medal of Honor society supports the aims and goals of the museum, according to Mattson who invites the community to visit the newly renovated facility to learn more about the cost of freedom and the men and women from California who paid the price.

"Elevated to official status as the military museum of the State of California with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's approval of AB 1939, authored by Assemblyman Dave Cox, the museum ensures that special exhibits, such as Jewish War Veteran Medal of Honor Recipients, recognize our culture and traditions and the bravery of Americans who have kept us a free nation," says Brig. Gen. Donald Mattson, the museum's director.

The museum collects, preserves, and interprets the history and artifacts of the citizens of the Golden State in all branches of the U.S. armed forces, including the California National Guard.

Located in historic Old Sacramento, the museum maintains and exhibits more than 30,000 artifacts from men and women who served the nation, in displays that tell their personal stories of military life and combat.

The exhibit honoring Jewish American Medal of Honor recipients opened to the public on Tuesday, February 8th.

For more information, contact the museum at (916) 442-2882.

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